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INFO.

DISC.

PAGES: 2

SUPPLEMENT

SUBJECT Dependency of Orthodox Church hereby regraded to Ecclesiastic. This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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ORIGIN

1. The sermons in all Soviet controlled churches must include literature prepared by the propagandists of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and emphasizing the slogan, "Equality, One Church, One Fatherland". The Communists remind all clergymen that the Soviet Government has reestablished the church. Therefore, it is the duty of the ecclesiastics to uphold the Communist principles. Father Sernov, a Moscow priest, stated in the first edition of the "Patriarskii Vestnik" (Patriarchal Gazette) that the Orthodox churches everywhere looked to Russia as the center which expresses the international concept of Pan Slavism.
2. Among the well-known anti-Soviet clergymen are Bishop Paul Melitsev, now a refugee in the Vatican and a group of clergymen known as the "Karlovtseva Group", headed by 80 years-old metropolitan Michael Anastasi, formerly Bishop of Chelm and later Bishop of Kishinev. The headquarters of the "Karlovtseva Group" are in Lausanne. This group collaborates with other orthodox circles, urging them to forego allegiance to the Patriarch of Moscow, a puppet stooge of the Communist Party.
3. Other personalities within the Ministry of Religious Affairs include Liaison Deputy S. Belyuchev, K. Amisimova, G. Utkin and L. Ivanov. A. Kushnaryev is the Soviet liaison to the Leningrad diocese; P. Tichonov is Liaison to Novgorod. Minister Karpov gives direct orders to Patriarch Alexei. The liaison officers act as overseers.
4. The Ministry expects the church to give the government full moral support. The Moscow patriarch calls all religious conferences except the council of representatives from the Eparchies. As there is a scarcity of clergymen few priests can choose their assignment. The Ministry must approve all the appointments of bishops and higher ecclesiastics.
5. There are three schools of divinity in the Soviet Union: Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev. Alexei personally supervises the Institute of Divinity in Moscow. Professor Popov is the Rector and Vedernikov First Secretary. Professor Platonov is Dean of Instructors and Krishchinsky assistant. The Leningrad School of Divinity is under the supervision of Novgorod Metropolitan Grigori. Archpriest N. Lomakin is Rector; A. Zishkin is Dean of Instructors. Entrance examinations include political questions on the history and structure of the Soviet Union. The curriculum emphasizes the "love of the Fatherland". Although officially there is only one unified church within the Soviet Union.

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ADSO	X	A DEP.	X	FST		SPDF		VIG		Grass	X		OGL	
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two dogmatic factions exist, the "Old Church Group" and the "New Church Group", headed by Patriarch Alexei.

6. On 10 November 1946 a special service was held in St. Nicholas Church in Vienna, to celebrate the completion of the repairs on the Church. Metropolitan Sergei invited all the prelates of the other Orthodox churches in Vienna, including Archimandrite Tsitter of the Greek Orthodox Church. Lieutenant General N. F. Lebedenko, Boris Churallyov, who represented Poland, and Colonel Kotolov, chief of the political section of the Russian Komondatura, were also present. Metropolitan Sergei thanked Lebedenko for the Russians' financial and material assistance in the repairs of the church and said he hoped for a continuance of the "good understanding between church and government". After the service, General Lebedenko and his staff dined at Sergei's apartment with Sergei and his staff. Chernuchin, Chief Warden of St. Nicholas, reported on church finances and again thanked Lebedenko for his generosity.

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